GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6145
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2015
FREEDOM OF SPEECH
Chinnaraj Shri Gopalakrishnan

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of a recent Judgment of the Supreme Court regarding freedom of speech and expression;

(b) if so, the details thereof anddhe reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the said order is likely to affect individual's secrecy and if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(d) the implication and applicability of the said order with regard to foreign nationals in India?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA)

(a) Yes, Madam. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgment reported as Shreya Singhal vs. Union of India [Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 167 of 2012](2015)3JT 225 declared Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 as unconstitutional on the grounds that it violates fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression as contained in Article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution of India

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.